

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00240 160722Z

21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 SPC-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 113124

R 160645Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7316

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0240

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENERGY: ENRG, NP

SUBJECT: OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL

REF: STATE 247147

1. ONLY LIMITED WORK DONE TO DATE IN FIELD OF OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL. PRELIMINARY GEOLOGICAL REPORTS DONE BY UN ADVISOR TONI HAGEN IN 1958 AND BY UN SPONSORED SOVIET EXPERTS (N.A. EREMONKO AND V.P. NOMOKONOV) IN 1967. (COPY LATTER REPORT SENT DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER EMBASSY AIRGRAM A-250, MAY 3, 1967.) COPIES OF SUBSEQUENT REPORTS DONE IN JULY 1969 AND APRIL, 1970 BY NEPALESE, SWISS, AND ROMANIAN GEOLOGISTS BEING AIR POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. MOST FAVORABLE AREA FOR PETROLEUM APPEARS TO BE SOUTHERN TERAI AREA NEAR INDIAN BORDER, AND GON HAS CONCENTRATED ITS MAPPING EFFORTS IN THIS REGION. NEPAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY HAS COMPLETED GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF 2000 SQUARE MILE AREA, IN ONE INCH EQUAL ONE MILE SCALE, IN RAPTI, BHERI, AND SETI ZONES IN WESTERN NEPAL. WITHIN THIS AREA,

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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00240 160722Z

GRAVITY AND MAGNETIC SURVEYS ARE UNDER WAY IN DANG AND SURKHET,

AND STRATIGRAPHIC DRILLING HAS BEEN DONE TO DEPTH OF ABOUT  
1000 FEET IN DANG.

3. GON PRESENTLY CONDUCTING MAGNETIC SURVEY OF KATHMANDU VALLEY.

4. MOST RECENT LOOK AT NEPAL'S GEOLOGY TAKEN BY PRC RECONNAISSANCE  
MISSION WHICH SPENT SIX MONTHS IN KATHMANDU VALLEY AND TERAI.  
ONLY INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS AT PRESENT ON FINDINGS OF PRC  
MISSION IS RECOMMENDATION THAT SUBSTANTIALLY MORE GEOLOGICAL  
WORK MUST BE CARRIED OUT.

5. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT TWO US COMPANIES--CLAYCO PETROLEUM  
AND GENERAL EXPLORATION--HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST TO GON IN  
POSSIBLY OBTAINING CONCESSIONS IN NEPAL.

6. WE ASSUME THAT SOME GEOLOGICAL WORK, WITH RELEVANCE TO  
NEPAL, HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN UTTAR PRADESH BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.  
SUCH REPORTS ARE NOT, HOWEVER, AVAILABLE IN NEPAL. WOULD  
WELCOME ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY NEW DELHI ABLE PROVIDE.  
QUAINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL  
**TAGS:** ENRG, NP, CLAYCO PETROLEUM, GENERAL EXPLORATION  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005